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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

## Central Intelligence Bulletin

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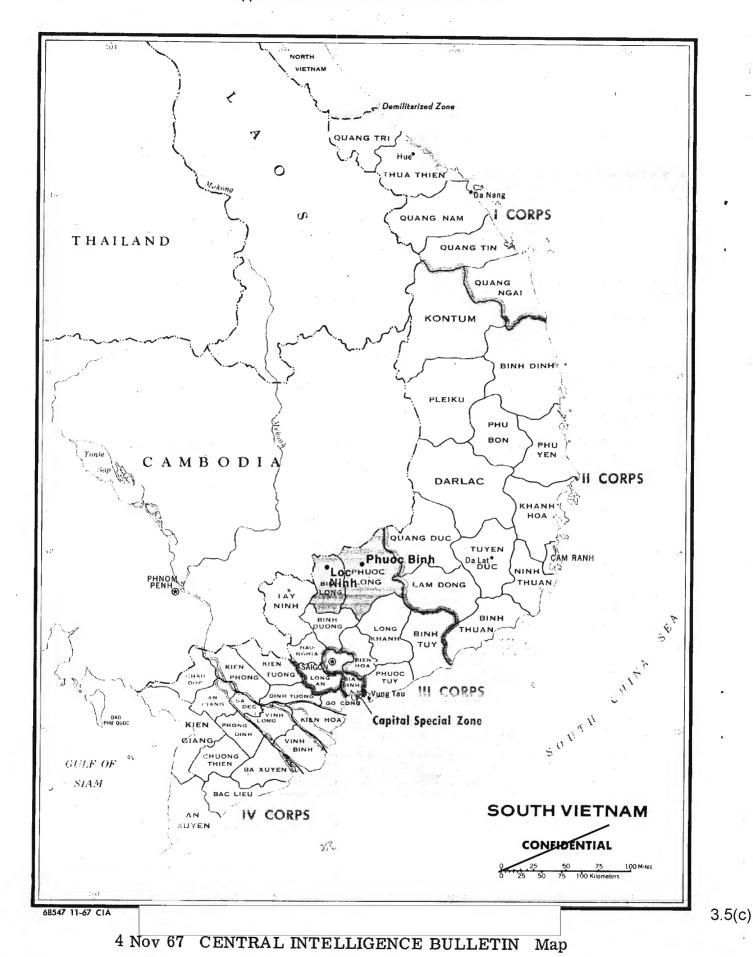
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\*South Vietnam: Continuing Communist attacks in northern III Corps suggest the enemy is trying hard for a dramatic success in that sector.

For the sixth day in a row, heavy fighting has occurred in northern Binh Long Province. US and South Vietnamese infantrymen were subjected to mortar and ground attacks on 3 November near Loc Ninh. More than 900 Communist soldiers reportedly have been killed in the past week's fighting there.

Elements of three Communist divisions are in the northern sections of Binh Long and Phuoc Long provinces. Two regiments from these units were involved in the recent fighting around Loc Ninh and two others have been active to the east in the vicinity of Phuoc Binh.

In addition, the Viet Cong have stepped up their attacks in the Mekong Delta during the past week. A flurry of guerrilla-type actions have resulted in 24 South Vietnamese and nearly 100 Communists killed.

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The National Liberation Front's radio announced on 2 November that the Viet Cong intend to free three US prisoners as a gesture of appreciation to the "progressive" American people who are "opposing the US imperialists' war of aggression in Vietnam." A subsequent Front broadcast said the prisoners would be released to their families or to representatives of US "peace organizations."

The Communists apparently intend, by this offer, not only to encourage antiwar groups in the US, but also to have them deal with the National Liberation Front

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